

**Testimony on Care4Kids  
Appropriations Committee  
February 21, 2017**

Members of the legislative assembly:

My name is Flor Fernandez. I live in New Haven and I work in North Branford. I am a single mother and the only supporter of three children, Leslie age 8, Ulises age 6, and Melanye age 3. They all attend John Martinez Public School in New Haven.

Since 2014, from 3 in the afternoon to 11 at night, my children have attended Saint Martin of Porres Home Daycare with the child care provider Luz Serna, because I work Monday to Friday on a 4pm to 10pm shift in North Branford.

I currently receive the Care4Kids subsidy for the care of my three children. I am lucky and each day I am deeply thankful to my child care provider for the excellent quality of care that my children receive. When I am at work I am calm because I know that they are well cared for, well fed, and their schoolwork will be finished. I see that when my children are with their provider, they are as comfortable as they are when they are in their own home. Nothing compares to the attention, professionalism, and love that Luz and her staff give all the children in their care. The extra work that she does helping the children with their homework shows in the good grades that my children receive in school.

All of this would not be possible without the help I receive from the Care4Kids program. If I did not have Care4Kids, I do not know what would happen to me and my children. My income is not enough to pay for the care of three children.

Without Care4Kids, I would have to stop working. I want my children to have the same opportunities as other children to go to a quality daycare with the safe and healthy environment that is offered at Saint Martin of Porres Home Daycare. I cannot help my children with their homework because of my limitations with the English language. That is why I need them to be in a good child care program with the help of Care4Kids.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you do not reduce Care4Kids. Thank you.

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